



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

May 7, 2001

Education Committee Upholds Flexibility in H.R. 1

During consideration of H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind Act*, a majority of the Education & the Workforce Committee rejected two amendments that would've hamstrung states and local school districts.

One, a class size reduction mandate, would have forced schools to hire teachers even if they don't need them and reduced overall teacher quality. The other, an authorization for federal school construction financing, didn't target funds to schools with a compelling need and would have intruded on what is traditionally the province of local school districts.

Both proposals were part and parcel of the one-size-fits-all mentality that is one reason why an overhaul of Washington's role in education is so necessary today. H.R. 1 gives states and local school districts the freedom and flexibility they need to implement innovative education reform plans that have proven successful in improving student achievement. It allows them to use federal funding to meet their own unique needs, including but not limited to class size reduction.

Indeed, the *No Child Left Behind* bill dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of their federal education dollars among different programs to address local needs that often change from one year to the next.

Message of the Day

Enhanced flexibility for local school districts and states ensures that the needs of children, not bureaucracy, are the driving force behind federal education programs.

- ❑ *Under current law, rigid and unnecessary federal rules frequently hamper local schools' efforts to address their own needs.*
- ❑ *New flexibility for local schools fits within the framework of President Bush's plan to demand results in education.*
- ❑ *H.R. 1 represents a dramatic break from the past.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 eliminates or consolidates 32 ESEA programs out of a total of 66, streamlining nearly 50 percent of the federal K-12 bureaucracy in one swift stroke.
- The bill gives local school districts the freedom to apply federal resources where they're needed most -- from class size reduction to higher teacher salaries to technology in the classroom.
- Under H.R. 1, local school districts would not need to obtain permission from anyone -- including the U.S. Department of Education or the state -- before transferring funds among ESEA programs to aid students.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"[B]y accountability, I mean testing children . . . I believe it's the cornerstone of reform." **President George W. Bush, Merritt Elementary School, Washington, D.C., January 25, 2001**